

EPA REGION 8 EXTERNAL AWARD CRITERIA

The Regional Administrator may present awards within four external award categories to individuals and groups external to the Region 8 Office. These awards can only be made to recognize work carried out under the following federal environmental statutes:

- ☐ Clean Water Act (CWA);
- ☐ Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA);
- ☐ Clean Air Act (CAA); and,
- ☐ Pollution Prevention Act (PPA).

Work done solely within the following statutes is not eligible for recognition by the Agency:

- ☐ Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA);
- ☐ Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA);
- ☐ Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA); and,
- ☐ Superfund/CERCLA.

EPA Employees, SEEs, and EPA contractors or subcontractors under direct contract to EPA are not eligible to receive these external awards.

I. ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- A. **PURPOSE.** To recognize significant achievements in protection of public health or the environment, or in advancing the Agency's current strategic goals.
- B. **CRITERIA.**
 - 1. Outstanding contribution to environmental protection through a single action, or by an ongoing action over an appreciable period of time.
 - 2. Operating an environmental facility; OR
 - 3. Significant achievement resulting in a visible or measurable improvement to the environment; OR
 - 4. Superior leadership, skill, persistence, or creativity in:
 - a. developing and implementing an environmental program;
 - b. resolving a controversial environmental matter.
 - 5. Significant contribution to our awareness or knowledge of environmental issues, including, but not limited to, scientific, engineering, technical, media or administrative contributions or publications.
 - 6. Superior achievement in:
 - a. pollution prevention (reducing or preventing the generation of pollution at the source);
 - b. cooperative team efforts (partnering) with states, Tribes, local governments, businesses or organizations, to instill environmental awareness or achieve environmental goals.
- C. **ELIGIBILITY.** This award may be given to an individual, a group, or an organization, such as Tribal/state/local governments, the private sector, public interest groups, the media, non-profit groups, educational institutions, or other entities who meets ANY of the above criteria.
- D. **NOMINATIONS.** Any person, group, or EPA employee may nominate for this award.

II. FRIEND OF EPA

- A. **PURPOSE.** To recognize support or assistance to EPA in performing its mission.
- B. **CRITERIA.** The activity being recognized:
 - 1. Work being recognized must be within an eligible federal statute listed in the first paragraph of this chapter.
 - 2. Significantly benefits the Region or its employees.
 - 3. Serves to champion human health or environmental protection; OR
 - 4. Voluntarily addresses or is highly responsive to a stated or perceived EPA need.

- C. ELIGIBILITY. This award may be given to an individual, a group, or an organization, such as Tribal/state/local governments, the private sector, public interest groups, the media, non-profit groups, educational institutions, or other entities who meets 2-4 of the criteria above.
- D. NOMINATIONS. Any person, group, or EPA employee may nominate for this award.

III. **FRANK DECOUTEAU AWARD**

- A. PURPOSE. To recognize outstanding contributions to environmental protection or advancement by a Tribal staff employee or Tribal member, given in memory of Frank DeCouteau of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians.
- B. CRITERIA.
 - 1. Work being recognized must be within an eligible federal statute listed in the first paragraph of this chapter.
 - 2. Demonstrates outstanding leadership or management skills in advancing environmental protection or causes in Indian Country.
 - 3. Promotes environmental protection on Tribal lands.
 - 4. Demonstrates exceptional program management, administrative, or support skills to Tribal environmental achievement, education, or enhancement.
 - 5. Makes a noteworthy technical, laboratory, scientific, engineering, ecological, or scholarly contribution to environmental knowledge or protection.
 - 6. Makes significant contributions to Tribal environmental work in a senior capacity for a lengthy period of time.
- C. ELIGIBILITY. Any Tribal staff employee(s) or Tribal member(s) who are or have been actively involved with environmental protection or issues in Indian Country and meets ANY of the above criteria, is eligible to receive this award. A team nomination is acceptable.
- D. NOMINATIONS. Any person, group, or EPA employee may nominate for this award.

IV. **A. WADE VITALIS AWARD**

- A. PURPOSE. To recognize significant environmental contributions or work by a Tribal leader or Environmental Director, given in memory of A. Wade Vitalis of the Oglala Sioux Tribe.
- B. CRITERIA.
 - 1. Work being recognized must be within an eligible federal statute listed in the first paragraph of this chapter.
 - 2. Demonstrates a high degree of initiative and organizational skills to achieve or advance Native American environmental goals or purposes.
 - 3. Provides exceptional environmental leadership, commitment, direction, representation, or motivation on Tribal issues.
 - 4. Leads and develops a public forum to address broad-based environmental issues affecting a Tribe or Native Americans.
 - 5. Displays continued hard work, noteworthy initiative, high energy, and makes a positive contribution to a Tribe's environmental program or activity in a senior capacity over a lengthy period of time.
- C. ELIGIBILITY. Any Tribal chairperson(s) or council member(s), Tribal environmental director(s), manager(s), or leader(s) of an environmental program who meets ANY of the above criteria is eligible to receive this award.
- D. NOMINATIONS. Any person, group, or EPA employee may nominate for this award.